

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A system for generating an on-line report containing user billing and inventory information comprising:

5 a host site connected to at least one user computer terminal via an on-line interconnection, said host site comprising a database for storing the user billing and inventory information, and a processor terminal connected to the on-line interconnection for
10 receiving user report requests and sending reports created in response to the received requests and additional on-line user input, wherein said processor terminal comprises:

15 a view manager arranged to generate a set of function commands which can be selectively launched by user input to: graphically display a list of available views each of which contains a report relating to particular user information stored in a database, create a new view and report, and edit a view and
20 report; and

a data manager arranged to allow input of user defined data for insertion into a requested report.

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R17 2. The system of claim 1 wherein said view
25 manager comprises a view editor arranged to receive and implement user report editing instructions.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein said view editor comprises a plurality of editing commands which are graphically displayed in the graphical user
30 interface.

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4. The system of claim 3 wherein said plurality of editing commands comprise a drill down command, a grouping command, a sort command, and a total amount command.

5 5. The system of claim 1 wherein the view manager further comprises a report filter arranged to receive user defined filter values for use as threshold values to selectively control which database information will be included in a report.

10 6. The system of claim 1 wherein the on-line interconnection comprises an Internet connection and web browser.

15 7. The system of claim 1 wherein the graphical user interface comprises JAVA applets and an HTML page.

20 8. A method for generating an on-line report containing user billing and inventory information in response to an inquiry from a user computer terminal via an on-line connection, said method comprising:

25 generating a graphical user interface for on-line access by the user, said graphical user interface providing a set of function commands which can be selectively launched to: graphically display a list of available views each of which contains a report relating to particular user information stored in a database, create a new view and report, edit a view and report, and allow input of user defined data to be inserted into a report;

30 creating a report based on user responses to

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the set of commands; and

sending the created report to the user terminal via the on-line connection.

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5 9. The method of claim 8 further comprising providing report editing commands which can be accessed through the graphical user interface to specify desired data to be produced in a report.

10 10. The method of claim 9 further comprising providing report editing commands which can be accessed through the graphical user interface to specify a desired report format.

15 11. The method of claim 9 further comprising providing report editing commands which allow on-line user control of display, sorting, accounting, and grouping of report content.

20 12. The method of claim 9 further comprising providing report editing commands which allow a user to input content filtering constraints to limit the quantity of user information produced in a report.

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